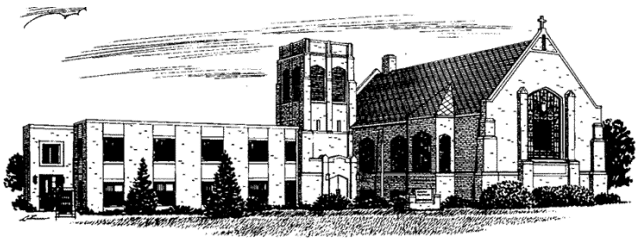
# SARON NEWSLETTER

*Saron Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA)*
*510 Main Street*
*St. Joseph, Michigan 49085*

*Website: www.saronlutheran.org*
*Email: info@saronlutheran.org*
*Phone: 269-983-1273*
*Facebook: www.facebook.com/saronlutheranchurchst.joseph*



*The Rev. Joan Oleson, Pastor*
*Home: 269-983-2475*
*Email:* oleson@saronlutheran.org

*Marcus Roll, Senior Choir Director,*
*Bell Choir Director*
*Email: mroll@saronlutheran.org*
*Irma Gorman, Organist*
*Margaret Froehlich, Administrative Assistant*
*Denise Cook, Financial Secretary*
*Krista Blaylock, Child Care*

**Sundays at Saron:**
***During the School Year:***
8:30 & 11:00 A.M. Worship
Childcare provided
9:40 Learning for Ages 2 – Adult

*Summers (thru Labor Day weekend):*
9:30 Holy Communion
Childcare provided
No Learning Hour

All are welcome!
We hold in prayer:
The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton,
Presiding Bishop, ELCA
The Rev. Dr. Craig Satterlee, Bishop of the
North/West Lower Michigan Synod, ELCA
The Rev. Whayne Hougland, Bishop of the Episcopal
Diocese of Western MI

Our Companion Synods:
Christian Lutheran Church of Honduras
Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea
Lutheran Church of Latvia

*Saron's Mission:*
*Joyfully sharing God's love for all!!*

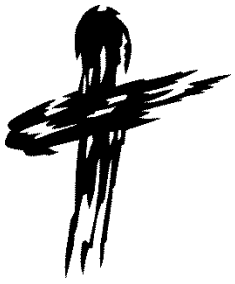
## February 2016

Lent is a season of preparation. Traditionally, it is the time when candidates readied themselves for baptism, often at the Easter Vigil.

This season, in our own times of preparation and renewal, we will ponder anew the promises made at baptism and affirmation of baptism. We will take time to inquire about the faith, as it relates to us as individuals, the faith community, and the community at large.

I invite you to join me for the journey as we continue in the covenant of baptism.

*Pastor Joan*



***ASH WEDNESDAY***
***February 10, 2016***
***12:15 & 7:00 PM***

***Imposition of Ashes***
***Holy Communion***

***Wednesday Evenings***
***Continuing in the Covenant of Baptism***

***February 17-To live among God's faithful people***
***February 24-To hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper***
***March 2-To proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed***
***March 9-To serve all people, following the example of Jesus***
***March 16-To strive for justice and peace in all the earth***

***Soup Supper 6:00 PM***
***Holden Evening Prayer***
***7:00 PM***

# Caring and Sharing

**In Our Prayers –**

We remember in our thoughts and prayers: **Arla Huelsberg** is at the Whitcomb Tower Retirement Center, St. Joseph; **Ev Maki** and **Burt Pearson** are at Caretel; **Lila Roethel** is at the Willows; **Dorris Doutt** is at Woodland Terrace, Bridgman.

**Serving in the military:**

**Andy Wedde** – **California**

**Office Hours at Saron**

Margaret (secretary): Mon-Tues, 9 AM - 1 PM
Weds of Newsletter Week, 9 AM - 1 PM
Volunteers: Weds, 9:30 AM - 11 AM+
Denise (financial secretary): times vary
Call for other times/changes
Pastor: most mornings, except Fridays

*When Pastor is out of town, emergency pastoral care information can be obtained by calling the church office (983.1273) or contacting the president of the congregation.*

Note: E-mails meant for Pastor should be addressed to oleson@saronlutheran.org. E-mails to Margaret and the church office should be addressed to info@saronlutheran.org.

***Happy Birthday Wishes to Saron's Members in February Birthday Wishes***

Feb. 2 - Makayla Bradley
Lindsay Gilmore-Gaspari
5 - Jerry Stelling
Erin Vollmer
6 - Laurie Granger
Linda Dipert
Mary Alice Brunner
8 - Ernst Knauf
Krystina Walker
10 - Aiden Ashley
12 - Nathan Brown
15 - Robert King
21 - Ryan Talbert
Bob Seymour
22 - Darlene Kiessel
23 - Rachel Mannisto
26 - Wendy King
28 - Cheryl Houser

*For additions or corrections, please call the church office at 983-1273. Thank you.*

**BAPTISMS**

God's blessing on Elise Marie Olson and Margot Ann Olson who were baptized at Saron on January 10, 2016 Elise and Margot's parents are Andrew and Nicole Olson.

# Worship

**SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS**

As you prepare for worship, you are invited to read and reflect on the Scriptures for the day.

**Sunday Feb. 7 –**
*Transfiguration of Our Lord*
Exodus 34:29-35
Psalm 99 (9)
2 Corinthians 3:12—4:2
Luke 9:28-36 [37-43a]

**Wednesday Feb. 10**
*Ash Wednesday*
Joel 2:1-2, 12-17
Psalm 51:1-17
2 Corinthians 5: 20b - 6:10
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

**Sunday Feb. 14 –**
*First Sunday in Lent*
Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
Romans 10:8b-13
Luke 4:1-13

**Sunday Feb. 21 –**
*Second Sunday in Lent*
Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
Psalm 27
Philippians 3:17--4:1
Luke 13:31-35

**Sunday Feb. 28 –**
*Third Sunday in Lent*
Isaiah 55:1-9
Psalm 63:1-8
1 Corinthians 10:1-13
Luke 13:1-9

**Nursery Help Needed**
We are always welcoming more help for the nursery. Krista Blaylock is our paid child care provider. But we need a volunteer for each service so that there are 2 persons in the nursery at all times. If you can help, please sign up at church or let Marilyn Lucy or Krin Jurgensen know of your willingness.

**PRAYER GROUP**
Join us on Mondays at 11:00 a.m. for a time of quiet reflection and prayer, which includes lifting up the requests offered on Sundays at worship. We meet in the sanctuary.

**Learning**
book of faith
Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.

Saron is a congregation seeking to become more fluent in the first language of faith, the language of Scripture, in order that we might live into our calling as a people renewed, enlivened, empowered and sent by the Word.

**Men's monthly Bible Devotions and Breakfast**
Men's Bible Devotions/Breakfast will meet February 6th at 9:00 a.m. at the church. Gather at Saron for a devotion followed by breakfast at a local restaurant.

**Wednesday Bible Study**
You are invited to join a study and discussion on the Scripture readings that will be used the following Sunday at worship. Join the conversation on Wednesdays at 1:00 PM. During February we will meet on the 3rd. We will not meet during Lent.

**Thursday Bible Class**
Join us on Thursdays for a study on the Gospel of John. In this study, participants will explore how the Gospel of John shows us the depth of Jesus' relationship to God. We meet from 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.

**EPHESUS BIBLE STUDY GROUP**
Watch the bulletin for the next meeting day and time of the Ephesus group.

**Tuesday Evening Men's Bible Study**
Saron's Tuesday Evening Men's Bible Study meets at 6:00 pm at the church. David Slater is leading us in understanding prayer. At 7:00 pm we adjourn for a time of fellowship. All men are invited to join us. As the Bible says "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another" (Proverbs 27:17). We are not going to meet during Lent but rather will encourage everyone to participate in the Weds. evening soup suppers and worship. Therefore our last Tuesday Bible study before Lent will be on February 2. For more information call Bob Kynast at 269-921-2786 or David Slater at 269-281-0848.

**1ST SUNDAY BOOK CLUB**
February 14th, 6:30 p.m., in the upstairs lounge is our next meeting. We will discuss "*The Pearl That Broke It's Shell",* by Nadia Hashimi. Set in Kabul, Afghanistan in 2007, Rahima can only sporadically attend school and is confined to her house most of the time. However, the ancient custom of bacha posh, which allows her to dress and be treated as a boy until she is of marriageable age is her temporary salvation. But then what? The story is intertwined with that of Rahima's great, great grandmother and is eye-opening in its scope and timed with events currently in the news.

Then on March 6th, we will be participating in the Great Michigan Read program sponsored by the Michigan Humanities Council. The entire state is encouraged to read the same book and then form community groups to discuss the book. "*Station Eleven*, by Emily St. John Mandel has been chosen. It is about a post apocalyptic society that has dedicated itself to keeping the remnants of art and the humanities alive. Copies of this book and a study guide will be passed out at the February 14th meeting. So please mark both gatherings on your calendar and plan to be part of the program.

*"A room without books is like a body without a soul". (Marcus Tullius Cicero)*

Any questions? Contact Kathy Cowall; kcowall@hotmail.com 269-428-0354 or Kathie Bradley; kbradley15@hotmail.com 269-427-7083.

# Support_

**STEWARDS OF GOD'S LOVE**

The December, 2015 issue of The Lutheran had an article about Our Favorite Bible Characters & Stories which included several pictures of art work. On page 18 was a detail from the serigraph by John August Swanson titled "The Story of Joseph". **It caught my attention because Saron has four (4) numbered serigraphs by John August Swanson including the one detailed in The Lutheran, The Story of Joseph (29/200)!! All four pieces of art are hanging in our upstairs lounge.** I know this because Saron's Support Team is just finishing an inventory of all the contents of Saron and I remembered writing up John August Swanson's work in that inventory.

*"John August Swanson was born in 1938 and makes his home in Los Angeles, California. He paints in oil, watercolor, acrylic and mixed media, and is an independent printmaker of limited edition serigraphs, lithographs and etchings. His art reflects the strong heritage of storytelling he inherited from his Mexican mother and Swedish father. He addresses himself to human values, cultural roots, and his quest for self-discovery through visual images….. All of his parables optimistically embrace life and one's spiritual transformation. His serigraphs (limited edition screen prints) have from 40 to 89 colors printed, using transparent and opaque inks creating rich and detailed imagery. For each color printed the artist must draw a stencil on Mylar film. This stencil is transferred to the silk screen for printing the color ink on the serigraph edition. His art is represented (world wide) including at The Vatican, the Smithsonian, the Art Institute of Chicago, Harvard University, Notre Dame, Victoria and Albert Museum in London, and the Bibliotheque Nationale in Paris."**

*http://www.johnaugustswanson.com/default.cfm/pid=1.5
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_August_Swanson

I have listed 2 of many links found online that you can use to research John August Swanson's life and his work. As I understand it, our serigraphs were purchased by an individual (or individuals) here at Saron and the framed, matted works were found at our local art fair in St. Joseph. Five were originally purchased but one was stolen! Saron's numbered serigraphs include a Triptyck: The Shepherds (107/175), 1985; Nativity (107/210), 1988; and Epiphany (107/210) 1988; as well as The Story of Joseph (29/200), 1986.

We are indeed a blessed congregation; we have many treasures at Saron, not the least of which are our talented and hard working people. God's people have many ways to do God's work and many hands over the past 140 years have assisted in that work. Caring for our building and its contents are part of our stewardship responsibilities. It helps to recognize and appreciate all that others before us have given as they express different approaches to worshiping God, including all of the arts. Thank God. Thank God. Thank you God.

**A Special Message for Travelers and Those Who Prefer Electronic Giving**

Saron offers the option to give electronically for your convenience. Please contact the church office if you have any questions or to enroll. Thanks.

**STOCK DONATIONS**

Saron partners with Scottrade, a brokerage firm, to accept stock donations. If you would like to donate stock, contact our representative, Bill Fuentas, at (574) 272-1980. The statements we receive from Scottrade do not identify who donated the stock so please notify Dave Bradley or Denise Cook when you have donated. This allows us to complete the transaction and to be sure it's added to your giving statement. If you have further questions or concerns contact Dave Bradley or Denise Cook.

# Hospitality

**Sign Up for Refreshments**

Please consider signing up for refreshments to be served after worship on Sundays. There is a sign-up sheet on the Narthex bulletin board.

# Outreach

***Community Outreach through Saron's Outdoor Nativity Scene:***

Our Nativity scene that is displayed throughout the Christmas season, is a source of quiet teaching for many people. Bill Oleson saw a mother and her young daughter approach the manger while the mother appeared to be explaining what it all meant. When the mother tried to leave, the little girl cried saying she wanted to pet the donkey! She stopped crying when she got her wish. Bill asked if he could take some pictures and they agreed.

On Saturday, January 9, Bill Oleson, Ed Brunner, Jim Oleson, and Brian Hohman brought in the outdoor Nativity set. When moving the manger, they found coins had been deposited inside the manger. Bill gathered up the coins and put them in an envelope and turned them in as an additional community offering. When Colleen Lundgren and Dave Bradley met to count offering, we found straw in the envelope as well as $5.90 in coin.

God's Work. Our Hands.

**ELCA Good Gifts**

During the Lenten season our donations of "Good Gifts " will be focused on children. We have chosen the title "Fostering Their Future," providing blankets, vaccinations, food and school supplies. Your gifts will help brighten the future of children.

See order form, on separate page or inquire at church.

**Michigan Blood Drive**

Mark your 2016 calendars for Saron's next BLOOD DRIVE! Tuesday, MARCH 1, from 2:00-6:30 pm Tell you friends and neighbors, all are welcome to give the gift of life.

Thank you, Keith Stevens

**Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen**

Thank you for your continuing support! We are always in need of LARGE CANS of fruit. You can drop them off at church. Also, if you would like to help out in 2016 in any way, let me know!

Thanks, Jan Stevens 429-2044

**NEW PHOTO DIRECTORY!**

LIFETOUCH Photography Pictorial Directory will be at SARON, March 11 from 2:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. and March 12, from 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. 2016! All appointment scheduling will be done on line. If you do not have a computer access or need assistance in scheduling, help will be available AFTER both services on January 31 and February 7th – bring your calendar! The link is: www.securedatatrans14.com/ap/saronlutheranchurch/index.php? Page=10

This link can also be found on the Saron Lutheran Church website.

***If you know that you will be OUT OF TOWN on March 11 and 12, please call the Lifetouch office @ 1-866-756-0281; they will give you another location in the area where you may have your photo taken. Thank you – Jan Stevens 429-2044.

**LWR Fair Trade**

We support Lutheran World Relief Fair Trade farmers through our selling of coffee, tea, and cocoa at cost. We have flavored coffee, decaf, medium and dark roast coffees, black and green teas, and now we are offering Keurig cups. Please support this ministry by purchasing these products regularly for yourself and as gifts. Thank you.

# Women of the ELCA

**Deborah Circle**

Deborah Circle's meeting for February 10th, 2016, will be attending the Ash Wednesday service at church rather than gathering at a private residence.

**SINGERS AND LISTENERS**

Dorcas Circle is hosting a Hymn Sing on Sunday, Feb. 21st. at 3:45 p.m., in the sanctuary. Sign up with your favorite hymn after the church service. Questions? See Irma Gorman

# Facilities

**GOLDEN HAMMERS NEED HELP!**

Golden Hammers is a group of volunteers that meets every Wednesday from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. at the church. They are women and men that gather to do various jobs in and outside of the church that help keep Saron looking good and also saves the church a considerable amount of money. Work includes folding bulletins, preparing the monthly newsletter for mailing, preparing the sanctuary for Sunday service, minor maintenance and some light cleaning/vacuuming. We really need some additional helpers, both men and women. It is a good fellowship opportunity as well as helping to maintain God's house. Please consider helping and if you have any questions talk to Bill Oleson or Pastor Joan.

**HELP NEEDED AFTER SECOND SERVICE**

Please consider helping out once every other month with the important job of securing our building after the second service. The job would be to lock all the outer doors, turn off lights and check a few areas in the building. It does not take long and usually you only are assigned once every other month if we have enough help. This is a job that needs to be done and we cannot expect our Pastor to have that responsibility. If you can help or you would like to find out more about the job please contact Janet or Bill Oleson.

# Council News

| ***Attendance Record*** | |
|---|---|
| *12/24/2015Christmas Eve* | *165* |
| *12/25/2015Christmas Day* | *12* |
| *12/27/2015* | *N/A* |
| *01/03/2016* | *81* |
| *01/10/2016* | *71* |
| *01/17/2016* | *71* |

***Saron's Council Members – 2015***

Mary Kynast (428-0148) – President
Jan Stevens (429-2044) – Vice President
Dave Bradley (427-70834) – Treasurer
Mary Alice Brunner (248-767-9026) – Secretary
Mary Alice Brunner (248-767-9026) – Worship*
Jack Houser (556-0377) - Learning*
Eric Standen (556-9629) – Facilities*
Ken Ark (269-369-4766) – Facilities*
Scott Gaspari (847-373-8825) – Youth*
Austin Kamala – (269-930-5989) – Youth*
Joyce Marquardt (408-8650) – Support*
Dave Bradley (427-70834) - Support
Frieda Williams (556-7269) – Hospitality*
Jan Stevens (429-2044) – Outreach*
Joan Oleson (983-1273 office;
983-2475 home) – Pastor
**liaison*

***Vison Statements:***

*Facilities*
*Create a physical environment that will support our ministry*

*Hospitality – Inclusivity and Welcoming*
*Offer for all, Christ's radical hospitality.*

*Worship*
*Provide enhanced relevant worship experiences.*

*Outreach*
*Serve our community with 100% participation of those who worship at Saron.*

*Youth*
*Strive to encourage each of our youth to grow into their unique potential for a Christ centered life.*

*Learning*
*Center our lives in Christ through life-long learning*

**WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR FEBRUARY 2016**

**Feb. 7 8:30 a.m.**
Assisting Minister: Sue Rood
Reader/Com. Assist : Marilyn Frey
Acolyte: Troy Burrow
Ushers: Fritz Knauf and Steve Bell
Nursery: Krista Blaylock and Hannah Strayhorn

**Feb. 10 (Ash Wednesday) 7:00 p.m.**
Assisting Minister:
Reader/Intinction: Jan Stevens
Ushers: John and Kerrie Hoodlebrink

**Feb. 14 8:30 a.m.**
Assisting Minister: Wendy King
Reader/ Intinction: Eric Standen
Acolyte: Carter Hohman
Ushers: John and Kerrie Hoodlebrink
Nursery: Krista Blaylock and Marilyn Lucy

**Feb. 21 8:30 a.m.**
Assisting Minister: Jan Stevens
Reader/Com.Assist: Jim Manore
Ushers: Keith Stevens and Fritz Knauf
Acolyte: Jenna Henderson
Nursery: Krista Blaylock and Mary Alice Brunner

**Feb. 28 8:30 a.m.**
Assisting Minister: Pauline Ngonyani
Reader/Intinction: Karen Hinckley
Ushers: Walt and Sally Schmuhl
Acolyte: Brandon Burrow
Nursery: Krista Blaylock and Allison Rood

**Feb. 7 11:00 a.m.**
Assisting Minister: Colleen Lundgren
Reader/Com. Assist: Dan Fortenbacher
Acolyte: Meredith Gacek
Ushers: Dave and Sue Bailey
Nursery: Krista Blaylock and Lindsay Gaspari
**Building Closing: Bruce and Linda Huff**

**Feb. 14 11:00 a.m.**
Assisting Minister: Dennis Lundgren
Reader/ Intinction: Matt Bradley
Acolyte: Austin Kamala
Ushers: Ken Ark and John Olson
Nursery: Krista Blaylock and Krin Jurgensen
**Building Closing: Brad and Marilyn Frey**

**Feb. 21 11:00 a.m.**
Assisting Minister: Denise Cook
Reader/Intinction: Frieda Williams
Ushers: Dave and Sue Bailey
Acolyte: Grant Gacek
Nursery: Krista Blaylock and Judi Huff
**Building Closing: Dan Gustafson**

**Feb. 28 11:00 a.m.**
Assisting Minister: Bill Oleson
Reader/Intinction: Darlene Kiessel
Ushers: Dave and Patty Young
Acolyte: Austin Kamala
Nursery: Krista Blaylock and Darlene Kiessel
**Building Closing: Ken Ark**

***Thank you for your willingness to serve. If a conflict arises for your scheduled time, please find a replacement or change with another volunteer. Calling the church office (983-1273) to alert us to changes will help us keep the bulletin as accurate as possible and know that everyone is in place on a Sunday morning***

***Easter Blooming Plants***

***For worship on March 27, 2016***

*Please return form by March 20 - Plants can be picked up after 2nd service on Easter Sunday.*

_____ *Easter Lily (white) 6.5" @$9.00* _____ *(total)*

_____ *Tulip 6.5" @ $8.25* _____ *(total)*

*(___) pink (____) purple (____) yellow*

_____ *Calla Lily 6.5" @$18.00* _____ *(total)*

*Plants are given…*
*In honor of* _____

*In memory of* _____

*Your name* _____

**PAYMENT SUBMITTED WITH ORDER FORM**

**CASH_____ *or* CHECK_____ CK# _____ AMOUNT _____*Easter Flowers on Memo***
**OR *PAYMENT DUE BY EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 27th*** 1/13/2016

## SARON LUTHERAN CHURCH

ELCA Good Gifts "Fostering Their Future" Order Form

_____Blanket @$10.00 each $_____

_____Vaccination for a Child @$30.00 each $_____

_____School Supplies for a Child @$10.00 each $_____

_____Month of Food for a Child Orphaned by AIDS @$21.00 each $_____

_____General Donation – For ELCA Good Gifts.....……. $_____

***ORDERS RECEIVED THROUGH EASTER DAY*** **TOTAL $_____**

Your Name_____

*Gifts are given....*In honor/memory of _____
**PAYMENT SUBMITTED WITH ORDER FORM**

**CASH_____ *or* CHECK_____ CK# _____ AMOUNT _____*Good Gifts on Memo***
**OR *PAYMENT DUE BY EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 27th*** 1/13/2016

*SARON LUTHERAN CHURCH*
*510 MAIN STREET*
*ST. JOSEPH, MI 49085*

*Website: www.saronlutheran.org*
*Email:info@saronlutheran.org*

*A Congregation of:*
*The North/West Lower Michigan Synod*
*Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

*February 2016*

*We're on Facebook! Like us at*
*www.facebook.com/saronlutheranchurchst.joseph*

# February 2016

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Weekly Holy Communion and Children's sermon* | 1<br>11:00 a.m. Prayer Group | 2<br>6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study | 3<br>9:30 a.m. Golden Hammers<br>1:00 p.m. Bible Study | 4<br>9:30 a.m. Bible Class<br>6:00 p.m. Bells<br>7:00 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal | 5 | 6<br>9:00 a.m. Men's Devotion/Breakfast |
| 7<br>8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship<br>9:40 a.m. Sunday Church School Classes | 8<br>Newsletter Articles due<br>11:00 a.m. Prayer Group | 9 | 10 Ash Wed.<br>9:30am Golden Hammers<br>12:15pm & 7:00pm Worship with Communion<br>Deborah Circle | 11<br>9:30 a.m. Bible Class<br>6:00 p.m. Bells<br>7:00 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal | 12 | 13 |
| 14<br>8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship<br>9:40 a.m. Sunday Church School Classes<br>6:30 p.m. 1st Sunday Book Club | 15<br>11:00 a.m. Prayer Group | 16<br>3:30 p.m. Vasa Meeting at Saron | 17<br>9:30am Golden Hammers<br>6:00pm Soup Supper<br>7:00pm Worship | 18<br>9:30 a.m. Bible Class<br>6:00 p.m. Bells<br>7:00 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal | 19 | 20<br>9:00 a.m. Church Council Meeting |
| 21<br>8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship<br>9:40 a.m. Sunday Church School Classes<br>3:45 p.m. Hymn Sing in the sanctuary | 22<br>11:00 a.m. Prayer Group | 23 | 24<br>9:30 a.m. Golden Hammers<br>6:00pm Soup Supper<br>7:00pm Worship | 25<br>9:30 a.m. Bible Class<br>6:00 p.m. Bells<br>7:00 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal | 26 | 27 |
| 28<br>8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship<br>9:40 a.m. Sunday Church School Classes | 29<br>11:00 a.m. Prayer Group | | | | | |